

6. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the agent brings about a disassembly of the protein clusters.

7. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the ganglioside is selected from bovine brain gangliosides, GM₁, GD1a, GD1b, GD3, GM2, GM3, GQ1a, GQ1b, and/or globosides and their derivatives, in particular unsaturated sphingosines or ceramides containing unsaturated or short fatty acids.

8. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that cholesterol derivatives, in particular cholesterol sulfate, are employed.

9. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the modulation of the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains brings about a change in membrane transport, signal transmission and/or cell adhesion properties and/or in enzymic processes.

10. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the modulation of the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains brings about a change in the proteolysis of the amyloid precursor protein of Alzheimer's disease or a modification in a prion protein.

11. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the modulation of the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains prevents the phagocytosis of bacteria and parasites in mammalian cells.

12. (Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the modulation of the sphingolipid-cholesterol microdomains prevents the uptake of viruses into mammalian cells and/or their transport and release.